

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11 and 13 have been cancelled, claims 12 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 6, 12 and 14 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain of the claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claim 10 recites allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 2 to include the features previously recited in claim 8 (upon which claim 10 directly depends) and in claim 10. In addition, the word "the" has been added where suggested by the Examiner relative to claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is thus in condition for allowance.

The rejections over prior art are irrelevant, the rejected claims having been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.245402003400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Alan S. Hodes

Registration No.: 38,185

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

755 Page Mill Road

Palo Alto, California 94304

(650) 813-5622